

■ REASONS TO OPPOSE THE STAND FOR CHILDREN BALLOT INITIATIVE

A group calling itself “Stand for Children” is collecting signatures to place a question on the November ballot that, if enacted, will greatly diminish the voices of teachers – who know our public schools the best – without doing anything to improve the quality of education. The initiative seeks to undermine teacher bargaining rights, weaken Professional Teacher Status, and impose bureaucratic state mandates on districts. The MTA has filed a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality. There are several important reasons to oppose Stand’s initiative.

- **EXTREMELY LONG AND COMPLICATED.**

It has 11 separate sections that require changes to several different state laws. The summary alone is four pages long. It’s too complex to be decided by a simple Yes or No vote on the ballot.

- **DISTRACTION FROM THE REAL ISSUES.**

The petition is a gimmick that will divert time, money and energy away from important priorities for our students, such as reducing class sizes, restoring music, art and other activities and services that have been cut, and expanding learning opportunities for all students.

- **UNDERMINES TEACHERS’ RIGHTS AND LOCAL CONTROL.**

It imposes top-down state mandates regarding how personnel decisions are made, taking away local control and the right of teachers to have a voice in these matters through collective bargaining.

- **DISRUPTS NEW TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM.**

The proposal makes major changes to the recently enacted educator evaluation system before it has even been implemented. That system was developed by all of the major education stakeholders and state officials after many months of discussion; it must be given a chance to work.

- **OPPOSED BY PUBLIC EDUCATION ADVOCATES, INCLUDING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION PAUL REVILLE, THE MASSACHUSETTS PTA, BOTH PRINCIPALS’ ASSOCIATIONS, BOTH TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS.**

Secretary Reville wrote in November: “I fear that [the Stand] ballot initiative would set up a distracting and divisive battle, engendering an over-simplified public dialogue that would alienate educators and prevent us from achieving a variety of reform goals.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: massteacher.org/stand